

Whl

FILES FROM THE PACIFIC COAST/WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

From the fall of 1948 to the spring of 1974, the Pacific Coast/Western Hockey League provided a high level of minor league professional hockey entertainment to cities along the Pacific Coast from San Diego to Victoria/Vancouver and across the Canadian prairies from Calgary to Winnipeg. During its last decade, it had teams in Denver, Salt Lake City, and Phoenix. During most of its existence, the league was used by the National Hockey League for the development of younger players and as a "home" for older players who were skilled enough to be "emergency replacements" for NHL clubs. It also provided a "long-time home" for journeymen hockey players who, although very skilled, were not sufficiently talented to make the NHL.

During the 1960s, as major league football, basketball, and baseball expanded to the large metropolitan areas west of the Mississippi, the Western Hockey League sought to become an expansion division of the NHL or, failing that, a new major league. However, NHL expansion to three WHL cities, and World Hockey Association expansion to seven others not only destroyed the WHL's hopes of going major but also led to the destruction of the league itself.

In 1973, I wrote ICEMEN, the 25th anniversary commemorative history of the WHL. Over three decades later, I wrote a full history of the league: ICE WARRIORS: THE PACIFIC COAST/WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE 1948-1974. During my interviews with players, coaches, owners and league officials, I met the owner of the Seattle Totems, who had kept (hoarded?), along with other of his treasure, a filing cabinet of materials relating to the WHL. He generously donated these to me and they provided a great deal of the information I incorporated into the book. (None of this material seems to exist anywhere else).

The archives I have here assembled include, in addition to copies of my two books, the newspaper clippings, statistical records, and various articles gleaned from the internet and from microfilms of newspapers from the various league cities and the files donated by the owner. These include programs and media guides, minutes of league meetings, player contracts, agreements with players associations and the National Hockey League, box office and attendance records.

These files provide not only a very full record of the Western Hockey League itself, they also serve as an example of the issues and problems that minor league teams in general faced from shortly after World War II to the middle of the 1970s.

My book, while it provides detailed coverage of the Western Hockey League, was written for a general audience and does not explore deeply the legal and financial aspects. The materials in these files would provide future researchers into the history of minor league hockey and minor league professional sport in general information that would lead to a fuller examination and analysis of various issues.

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Whlarchives

FILES IN THE PACIFIC COAST /WESTERN-HOCKEY LEAGUE ARCHIVE

Box 1

1. *Icemen: 25th Anniversary History of the Western Hockey League* (Jon C. Stott) book
Ice Warriors: the Pacific Coast/Western Hockey League 1948-1974 (Jon C. Stott) book
 - 1a. All Time PCHL/WHL Roster
2. All-Time Rosters of Individual Teams
3. Denver Invaders/Spurs History
4. Portland buckaroos Historical Articles
5. PCHL/WHL Historical Articles – miscellaneous
6. 1948-49 statistics and news clippings
7. 1949-50 statistics and news clippings
8. 1950-51 statistics and news clippings
9. 1951-52 statistics and news clippings
10. 1952-53 statistics and news clippings
11. 1953-54 statistics and news clippings
12. 1954-55 statistics and news clippings
13. 1955-56 statistics and news clippings
14. 1956-57 statistics and news clippings
15. 1957-58 statistics and news clippings
16. 1958-59 statistics and news clippings
17. 1959-60 statistics and news clippings
18. 1960-61 statistics and news clippings
19. 1961-62 statistics and news clippings
20. 1962-63 statistics and news clippings
21. 1963-64 statistics and news clippings
22. 1964-65 statistics and news clippings
23. 1965-66 statistics and news clippings
24. 1966-67 statistics and news clippings
25. 1967-68 statistics and news clippings
26. 1968-69 statistics and news clippings
27. 1969-70 statistics and news clippings
28. 1970-71 statistics and news clippings
29. 1971-72 statistics and news clippings
30. 1972-73 statistics and news clippings
31. 1973-74 statistics and news clippings

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Box 2

32. WHL Exhibits re Professional Hockey League Players Association Agreement 1973. Includes copy of old agreement 1971, benefits outlines, box office and attend 1972-73, comparison of income and player salaries; player contracts for Phoenix and San Diego
33. Professional Hockey Players Association Agreement 1974
34. Professional Hockey Players Association File 1972: League file including correspondence

34a. WHL-Professional Hockey Players Association – arbitration 1973. Complete file – transcripts, letters. Etc

35. 1971-72: all player contracts for all teams

36. 1970-71: all player contracts for all teams

37. 1970-74: player contracts owned by NHL Vancouver Canucks and assigned to Seattle Totems

38. Trial: Seattle Totems vs NHL. Vol I – transcript of trial has useful background information on WHL and its relationship with NHL. Trial took place after the dissolution of the WHL

39. Trial Vol II

40. Trial Vol III

41. Trial Vol IV

Bx 3

FILES IN THE PACIFIC COAST/WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE ARCHIVE

Box 4

- 42. Trial: Volume V
- 43. Trial: Volume VI

43a Files re: expansion to Salt Lake City

- 44. Files re expansion to Calgary
- 45. Files re expansion to Albuquerque, NM
- 46. Files re expansion to Edmonton
- 47. Files re expansion to Victoria
- 48. Files re expansion to Tacoma, WA
- 49. Files re expansion to Phoenix
- 50. Miscellaneous expansion files
- 51. Game day programs: Phoenix
- 52. Game day programs: Denver
- 53. Game day programs: Portland
- 54. Game day programs: San Diego
- 55. Game day programs Vancouver
- 56. Game day programs Seattle
- 57. WHL gate equalization pool
- 58. Documents re dissolution of WHL

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FILES IN THE PACIFIC COAST/WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE ARCHIVE

Box # 5

59. Minutes of WHL meetings 1959-1968
60. Minutes of WHL meetings 1968-1973
61. NHL – minor league agreement 1951
62. NHL – minor league agreement 1968
63. Emerald IceSeattle Totem's History (book)
64. Box office and attendance data 1965-1972
65. Box office and attendance data 1955 ff
66. Box office and attendance data 1966-1972
67. Box office and attendance data 1972-1974
68. Seattle totems financial statement 1957-1969
69. Indemnity agreement Vancouver (NH) and WHL – for expansion into WHL territory
70. WHL bylaws/Rules/Regulations 1966 and 1970
71. WHL media guides 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966
72. WHL media guides 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970; rule book and schedule 1970-71
73. WHL media guides 1972, 1973, 1974; rule book and schedule 1971-72, 1973-74;
Schedule and statistics 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74

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